

Revised Associate Power of Attorney Practice - 37 CFR 1.32
(Applies to Associate Powers of Attorney filed on or after June 25, 2004)

This is in response to the Associate Power of Attorney, filed 7/6/04, which was on or after June 25, 2004, the effective date of a rule change eliminating Associate Power of Attorney practice (37 CFR 1.34(b) was eliminated). See Revision of Power of Attorney and Assignment Practice, 69 Fed. Reg. 29865 (May 26, 2004), 1283 Off. Gaz. 148 (Jun. 22, 2004).

Although the paper has been placed in the file, the names of the patent practitioners listed on the Associate Power of Attorney have not been made of record.

A registered patent practitioner may take action in a patent application on behalf of a patent applicant, if he or she is authorized by the patent applicant or the assignee of the patent applicant without being of record in Office records. See 37 CFR 1.34. When acting in a representative capacity, the registered patent practitioner must provide their registration number and name along with his or her signature. A registered patent practitioner is only required to be of record in a patent application in which an executed declaration has been filed (i.e., have a power of attorney in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32(b)) to:

- (1) sign a change of address,
- (2) expressly abandon a patent application without filing a continuation,
- (3) sign a terminal disclaimer, and
- (4) sign a power to inspect.

In addition, a registered patent practitioner who is not of record may act on behalf of the assignee, when an assignee complies with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

For additional information regarding the elimination of Associate Power of Attorney practice, see the questions and answers posted at:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/poafaqs.htm>.

August 11, 2004

Revised Power of Attorney Practice - 37 CFR 1.32
(Applies to Powers of Attorney filed on or after June 25, 2004)

This is in response to the Power of Attorney, filed [redacted]. The Power of Attorney in this application is not accepted because applicant has not complied with 37 CFR 1.32(b).

As a result of a revision of the patent rules relating to powers of attorney, a power of attorney filed on or after June 25, 2004 must either appoint:

- a) One or more joint inventors; OR
- b) Those registered practitioners associated with a Customer Number; OR
- c) Ten or fewer patent practitioners, either in the power of attorney itself, or by a listing in a separate paper accompanying the power of attorney, as explained below.

See (newly established) 37 CFR 1.32(b) and (c), the text of which is as follows:

(b) A power of attorney must:

- (1) Be in writing;
- (2) Name one or more representatives in compliance with (c) of this section;
- (3) Give the representative power to act on behalf of the principal; and
- (4) Be signed by the applicant for patent (§ 1.41(b)) or the assignee of the entire interest of the applicant.

(c) A power of attorney may only name as representative:

- (1) One or more joint inventors (§ 1.45);
- (2) Those registered patent practitioners associated with a Customer Number;
- (3) Ten or fewer registered patent attorneys or registered patent agents (see § 10.6 of this subchapter) (patent practitioners). Except as provided in paragraph (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section, the Office will not recognize more than ten patent practitioners as being of record in an application or patent. If a power of attorney names more than ten patent practitioners, such power of attorney must be accompanied by a separate paper indicating which ten patent practitioners named in the power of attorney are to be recognized by the Office as being of record in application or patent to which the power of attorney is directed.

The power of attorney appointed more than ten patent practitioners, without reference to a Customer Number and without a separate paper indicating which ten patent practitioners named in the power of attorney are to be recognized, and, as a result, did not comply with 37 CFR 1.32(b).

How to take corrective action: (1) Resubmit a copy of the power of attorney along with a separate paper indicating which (up to ten) patent practitioners named in the power of attorney are to be recognized by the Office as being of record in the application or patent to which the power of attorney is directed. The separate paper cannot identify a Customer Number, if the power of attorney signed by the applicant or assignee did not give power of attorney to a Customer Number. (2) Alternatively, a newly-executed power of attorney in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32 may be filed.

After receipt of such a submission, the patent practitioners listed on the separate paper or new power of attorney in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32 will be recognized as being of record. For additional information regarding this change in practice, see Revision of Power of Attorney and Assignment Practice, 69 Fed. Reg. 29865 (May 26, 2004), 1283 Off. Gaz. 148 (Jun. 22, 2004) and <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/poafaqs.htm>.

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